

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00278 220805Z  
ACTION FAA-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 /019 W  
-----220810 126603 /14

R 220650Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2954

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAIR MU  
SUBJECT: FAA BUDGET AND OMAN GOVERNMENT REACTION

REF: STATE 8642

1. CHARGE AND ECONOFF DISCUSSED REVISED FAA BUDGET ESTIMATES WITH OMAN DGCA SALIM BIN NASSIR FEB 20, DGCA BELIEVES THAT CERTAIN ITEMS IN BUDGET ARE TOO HIGH, AND HE WISHES THESE FIGURES TO BE REDUCED BEFORE NEW AMENDMENT TO ORIGINAL MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT IS PREPARED. NASSIR DOES NOT FEEL THAT NEW BUDGET ADEQUATELY REPRESENTS THE INCONVENIENCE CAUSED BY FREQUENT TURNOVER AND ABSENCE OF FAA PERSONNEL.

2. NASSIR APPRECIATES FAA DOWNWARD REVISION OF COSTS IN FIRST TWO YEARS OF AGREEMENT (JUNE 1975 THROUGH JUNE 1977) BUT DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHY ALLOWANCES FIGURE FOR SECOND YEAR HAS BEEN INCREASED FROM \$26,500 TO \$39,600 AND WOULD LIKE TO HOLD THIS FIGURE CONSTANT IF POSSIBLE. SIMILARLY, HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT OMANGOV SHOULD PAY FULL AMOUNT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PER DIEM COSTS FOR TDY PERSONNEL, SINCE IT WAS NOT THE OMANGOV'S FAULT THAT FAA WAS UNABLE TO ASSIGN PERMANENT PERSONNEL IMMEDIATELY. IN GENERAL, HIS VIEW OF FIGURES FOR FIRST TWO YEARS IS THAT ORIGINAL PROJECTIONS WERE COMMITMENTS THAT MUST BE ADHERED TO, WITH SOLE EXCEPTION THAT REDUCED COSTS ARISING FROM ABSENCE OF PERSONNEL SHOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FULLY REFLECTED IN REVISION.

3. NASSIR IS WILLING TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE ON THIRD AND FOURTH YEAR PROJECTIONS, BUT HE HAS PROBLEMS WITH THESE FIGURES AS WELL. WHILE HE ACCEPTS THE NECESSITY FOR A FIVE PERCENT ANNUAL INCREASE IN PERSONNEL COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS, HE BELIEVES THAT ELEVEN PERCENT RISE FROM 1976/77 TO 1977/78

IS EXCESSIVE AND SUGGESTS THAT IT BE REVISED DOWNWARD.  
HE ALSO OBJECTS TO OMANGOV'S PAYING \$40,000 EXTRA TO  
RETURN FAA PERSONNEL TO DOMESTIC DUTY POSTS, BECAUSE THESE  
RELOCATION FEES SEEM MUCH HIGHER THAN THE COST OF PERSONNEL  
TRANSFERS IN THE FIRST TWO YEARS.

4. NASSIR REITERATED HIS SATISFACTION WITH THE QUALITY OF  
WORK DONE BY FAA PERSONNEL BUT COMPLAINED AGAIN ABOUT THE  
PROLONGED ABSENCE OF TEAM MEMBERS. HE COMMENTED POINT-  
EDLY THAT THE FAA PROGRAM SHOULD BE A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  
EFFORT AND NOT A COMMERCIAL VENTURE. NASSIR CONTRASTED THE  
PROBLEMS WITH THE FAA TO HIS SMOOTH RELATIONSHIP WITH PAN  
AMERICAN. HE ENDED THE CONVERSATION BY REQUESTING US TO CONVEY  
HIS VIEWS TO WASHINGTON; HE INDICATED HE WOULD AGREE TO AN  
AMENDMENT WHICH MODIFIED THE COST PROJECTIONS IN THE LIGHT  
OF HIS OBJECTIONS.

5. COMMENT: DGCA HAS LEANED TOWARD AMERICAN AVIATION  
AND ELECTRONICS COMPANIES TO SUPPLY GOODS AND SERVICES AND  
SEEMS DISPOSED TO INCREASE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN OMAN'S  
CIVIL AVIATION EVER FURTHER. FOR THIS REASON, WE FEEL THAT  
FAA SHOULD TRY TO MODIFY ITS COST ESTIMATES DOWNWARD TO  
MEET AS MANY OF NASSIR'S CONCERN AS POSSIBLE. IN OUR  
VIEW, THE LONG-TERM BENEFITS IN GOODWILL AND INCREASED  
COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGE WOULD WELL OUTWEIGH ANY SHORT-  
TERM COSTS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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